ERITREA PROFILE

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PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI HELD TALKS WITH UN SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE HORN OF AFRICA

President Isaias Afwerki met, in the late afternoon hours on 12 November at the Denden Guest House, Mr. Guang Cong, the new UN Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa.

In extensive discussions focused on developments in the Horn of Africa, President Isaias noted that the UN's role and track record in resolving conflicts in the region have been ineffective and will require a new approach.

In this respect, President Isaias underlined that the mere deployment of peacekeeping forces without rigorous accountability mechanisms and holistic underpinning frameworks could not, in fact, yield the desired results. But the blame cannot be attributed to the UN, as the problem essentially stems from the prevailing flawed international order, President Isaias stressed.

President Isaias also referred to the shortcomings of regional organizations whose efficacy has been compromised – despite the lofty objectives enshrined in their mandates – due to unwarranted external interventions. In most cases, the regional organizations have become vehicles for external agendas.

On the situation in Sudan, President Isaias emphasized the



historical ties and partnership that bind together the two countries. In this spirit, Eritrea submitted, in 2022, a concept paper on the establishment of a popular governance structure based on citizenship, as part of its sincere efforts to make a modest contribution to the restoration of peace and stability in Sudan. But the initiative has made little headway due to external interventions, which have only exacerbated the conflict.

In a brief statement to the Eritrean News Agency, the UN Special Envoy stated that his visit to Eritrea is part and parcel of his engagement in the region. Mr. Guang Cong further expressed his satisfaction with the fruitful discussions he held with President Isaias Afwerki; paid tribute to Eritrea's contributions to the resolution of conflicts in the region; and affirmed his full readiness to work with Eritrea to promote regional peace and stability.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Osman SALEH, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Ms. Nahla Valji, UN Resident Coordinator in Eritrea.

Mr. Guang Cong was appointed as UN Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa in July 2025.

LEGENDARY ARTIST AND PATRIOT BEREKET MENGISTEAB PASSED AWAY



Legendary Artist and Patriot Bereket Mengisteab Bairu passed away on 12 November at the age of 84.

Legendary Artist Bereket Mengisteab began his artistic career in 1961 by joining the then Emperor Haile Selassie Theater in Addis Ababa. In 1973, he and his Eritrean colleagues formed the music group "Mekaleh Guaila."

Over a career spanning more than 60 years, Legendary Artist Bereket worked as a vocalist, poet, musician, and composer, producing numerous classic songs. His works significantly motivated Eritrean youth to join the armed struggle for national independence.

In 1958, Artist Bereket joined the Haraka Movement, and in 1975, he joined the Eritrean Liberation Front, serving as head of its Cultural Department until 1979. While living in Saudi Arabia until 1991, he established a musical band, "BM," and contributed several songs aimed at raising awareness among nationals in the country and abroad about the Eritrean people's struggle for independence.

After Independence, Legendary Artist Bereket continued his artistic career under the Commission of Culture and Sports and contributed to the preservation of national sovereignty and the nation-building process with his profession.

His wife and nine children survive Legendary Artist Bereket Mengisteab.

The funeral service for Legendary Artist Bereket will be conducted tomorrow 16 November, at noon at the Asmara Martyrs Cemetery.

Expressing deep sorrow over his passing, the Commission of Culture and Sports conveys its condolences to his family and fans.

ASSESSMENT MEETINGS ON THE PROGRESS OF RECONCILIATION COMMITTEES



Assessment meetings chaired by Ms. Fauzia Hashim, Minister of Justice, were conducted from 20 October to 2 November in all sub-zones of the Anseba Region to review the progress of reconciliation committees.

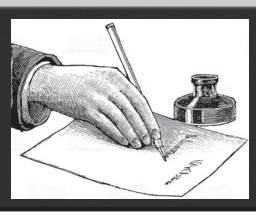
According to reports presented at the meetings, the reconciliation committees are working closely with area administrators, and the public has responded positively to their efforts. The reports further noted that most issues are being settled peacefully and recommended continuing sustainable awareness-raising activities to address challenges encountered in the process.

Speaking at the events, Ms. Fauzia Hashim said that the Eritrean people have a long history of both oral and written legal systems that guide socio-economic and community relations. Minister Fauzia emphasized the need to raise fundamental questions, such as: Do the country's existing laws reflect the nature of our society? Do they embody our societal values? Are they aligned with the principles and culture of the struggle for independence? She underlined that these are the kinds of questions that must be asked and addressed.

Minister Fauzia further stated that it is every citizen's responsibility to work earnestly to uphold national values, strengthen self-reliance, ensure unity and productivity, and nurture love of country. She also noted that reconciliation is one of the core societal values that helps peacefully resolve conflicts and restore peace and stability among citizens, urging the active participation of all concerned parties.



Guest Column



Lies, Calumny, and Obscurantism: Potemkin Party's Modus Operandi Cannot Change the Immutable

By Yonas Araadom

The ***Horn Review's*** fixation on Eritrea continues unabated. Its latest piece, part of a series of propagandistic articles, once again attempts to legitimize the PP's illicit and futile quest for "sovereign access to sea".

Ethiopian Regime's Sea Access Delusion and Eritrea's Strategic Alliances

The delusional notion of a "right to sovereign sea access and port ownership" has now reached a dead end. The international community cannot, in all honesty, entertain or accommodate this absurd claim. The only option is to relegate it to the dustbin of history.

Consequently, the Prosperity Party (PP) appears to have shifted gears. In a recent series of articles, its mouthpiece—the ***Horn Review (HR)***—has sought to undermine Eritrea's maritime security strategy, draw false parallels between Ethiopia and Bolivia's sea access cases, malign the Red Sea Trading Corporation, and link Ethiopia's isolation and instability to Eritrea and Egypt, as well as the TPLF.

Masquerading as an independent research platform, the Horn Review has moved from its earlier obsession with "sovereign sea access" to meddling in Eritrea's sovereign security and strategic policy choices. In its article "Foreign Military Presence and Eritrea's Calculus," it offers a poorly argued critique of Eritrea's maritime strategy, claiming that

"the country's engagements over the years reflect a pragmatic approach to foreign partnerships, one guided less by ideological consistency than by strategic necessity."

The so-called "researcher" behind this claim fails to grasp that strategic priorities inevitably reshape security partnerships, trade blocs, and alliances. The fluidity of international relations and the constantly shifting global landscape compel all nations to adapt their alliances. These shifts arise from a complex interplay of power dynamics, economic interests, security imperatives, shared values, and global challenges. Eritrea's strategic location as a littoral State naturally situates it within this broader matrix of international relations.

Eritrea's consistent position has been that the security of the Red Sea basin should first and foremost rest with the littoral States themselves, to prevent the kind of external interference that has historically destabilized the Horn of Africa. Eritrea therefore emphasizes dynamic diplomacy, multilateral collaboration, and conflict-prevention mechanisms that strengthen regional peace and stability.

How, then, can Eritrea be expected to engage in mutually beneficial strategic alliances with the Potemkin Party when the latter continues to reject the sanctity of internationally recognized borders?

Record of Opportunistic Alliances

Ironically, the Horn Review's critique of Eritrea's strategic interests attempts to obscure Ethiopia's erratic record of shifting allegiances since the dawn of its modern history. Scholars have long noted that Ethiopia's foreign policy – well before the PP acceded to power – was fraught with ambiguity and contradiction. Its interventions in South Sudan and Somalia were deeply problematic, justified under the guise of "regional peace and security," yet driven by narrow self-interest and principally carried out at the bidding of major powers.

Ethiopia has never been a neutral actor in Somalia. Over the years, successive Ethiopian regimes supported multiple factions, culminating in the 2006 invasion aimed at toppling the Islamic Courts Union. Today, the Potemkin Party's alignment with the UAE similarly reflects opportunism and proxy politics. The UAE's expanding influence under the current Ethiopian regime raises serious questions about whether this partnership serves Ethiopia's national interest. The UAE's record in Sudan and Somalia, where its backing of armed groups like the Rapid Support Forces has fueled instability, underscores these concerns.

Bolivia's Case and the False Parallel

The Horn Review also attempts to equate Ethiopia's situation with Bolivia's "right to the sea." To set the record straight, Bolivia brought its case before the International Court of Justice, arguing that the Chilean government had an "obligation to negotiate in good faith with the goal of granting Bolivia sovereign access to the Pacific Ocean." However, on October 1, 2018, the ICJ ruled against Bolivia, dismissing the case as untenable on grounds of legal substance and merit. As such, the parallel the Prosperity Party attempts to draw collapses under the weight of this undeniable fact.

The Horn Review repeats a familiar distortion:

"A similar story unfolds at the opposite end of the African continent. Ethiopia, once a country with a strong presence on the Red Sea, became landlocked after an agreement following a war with Eritrea…"

Invoking connections with a distant past in an attempt to legitimize the quest for sovereign sea access runs counter to historical reality. While it is hardly necessary to delve into the ancient and medieval history of the Horn of Africa and Northern Africa, it is worth noting that various civilizations arose at different times, sharing neither historical, political, nor geographical continuity. These include the Land of Punt (c. 2500–980 BCE); the Adulite Civilization, which flourished mainly in the Eritrean coastal lands and both predated and coexisted with the Axumite Empire (1st century BCE–8th century CE); and the Axumite Empire itself (1st century CE–940 CE). In addition, various fiefdoms with disparate centers of power and limited territorial reach emerged across disconnected regions.

"Conjuring up" the debunked fabricated myths of continuum and congruence to justify encroachment upon or invasion of a sovereign neighboring country constitutes a grave and unequivocal violation of international law, the UN Charter, and the Constitutive Act of the African Union. In reality, Ethiopia's political presence in Eritrea's coastal lands was limited to the bogus Federation and subsequent Annexation periods, spanning from 1952 to 1991.

Following Italy's defeat in World War II, Eritrea came under British Military Administration until 1952. At the same time, the US leveraged its diplomatic and political clout at the UN to impose the ill-advised federation between Eritrea and Ethiopia, denying Eritrea's right to decolonization. Emperor Haile Selassie later violated that federation, annexing Eritrea as Ethiopia's 14th province, an act that sparked a 30-year war of liberation.

In May 1991, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) decisively defeated the Ethiopian army, leading to the collapse of the regime and Eritrea's independence, debunking the false claim that Ethiopia "lost" access to the sea due to ''political indecision'' or ''mismanagement.'' Ethiopia's later attempt to seize Assab during the 1998–2000 border war also ended in a decisive defeat. The Eritrea-Ethiopia Border Commission (EEBC), established under the Algiers Agreement, reaffirmed Eritrea's borders as originally defined by the Treaties of 1900, 1902 and 1980 on the basis of the foundational principle of the Sanctity and Inviolability of Sovereign Borders. It must be recalled here that the litigation and subsequent 13 April 2002 EEBC Arbitral Award were sparked by the Ethiopian regime's putative claims on the town of Badme; not on any part of Eritrea's sovereign coastal territories as the PP seems to insinuate these days.

The Potemkin Party's recurring claim that its "loss of sea access" resulted from "agreements" or "political mismanagement" is nothing more than a denial of reality. It epitomizes a dogged refusal to acknowledge the forcible eviction of Ethiopian occupation after three decades of a costly war, with deleterious consequences to the peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia. In the event, PP's officials are desperately clinging to myths, excuses, and historical revisionism to conceal their irredentist ambitions. In a broader perspective, it is unfortunate that certain segments in Ethiopian elite circles seem to be incapable of coming to terms with reality and the contemporary history of both nations with a positive and forward-looking mindset.

On the Red Sea Trading Corporation (RSTC)

The Red Sea Trading Corporation (09), established in 1984, supports Eritrea's socially responsible development programs and ensures the steady provision of essential goods—stabilizing domestic markets. RSTC originated from the EPLF's wartime efforts to organize trade and development in liberated territories, laying the groundwork for self-reliant economic growth.

Potemkin Party's Self-Inflicted Regional Isolation

It is hardly necessary to detail the current Ethiopian regime's chronic tendency to externalize its internal problems. The country is now suffering the consequences of its own actions. Its self-aggrandizement and irredentist ambitions have set it on a collision course with its neighbors, undermining regional stability and endangering peace in the Horn of Africa. In addition, the siege mentality that the PP harbors stems from narrow tribalist grandeur camouflaged in national Ethiopian garb; political shortsightedness; reflexive and reactive tendency to deflect public attention from the domestic quagmire that it has stoked; and its persistent mishandling of regional affairs. The Amharic proverb "**የቆጡን ላውርድ ብላ የብብቷን ጣለች**" succinctly encapsulates the reckless and shortsighted political culture that has characterized successive Ethiopian regimes.

Burying historical facts, recycling fallacies, and drawing false parallels will not advance peace or coexistence in the Horn of Africa. The Prosperity Party's unfounded claims over Eritrea's maritime territory are not only baseless—they are dangerously counterproductive to regional stability. Its futile attempt to draw parallels from other nations in an effort to legitimize its quest for sea access only exposes the depth of its delusion. Moreover, such fixations and siege-mentality will ultimately inflict greater harm on those who perpetuate them. Circumventing long-standing and well-established international laws will inevitably set it on a dangerous collision course with its neighbors.

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SpotLight

Great Buzz: Empowerment Through Beekeeping and Agriculture

Bana Negusse

Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture branch in Emni-Haili sub-zone provided training on bee farming and the construction of bee hives to 75 farmers from the villages of Adi-Agua, Mekrem-Tire, and Egri-Mekel. According to program coordinator Mr. Amanuel Gebrebrhan, the farmers have already begun constructing hives and engaging in bee farming activities. Bee farming expert



Mr. Habtom Debesay noted that women accounted for 70 percent of participants in the three-month training and reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to supporting them as they expand their work.

This initiative highlights a growing trend across Eritrea: the increasing participation of women in agriculture, particularly in sustainable, income-generating activities such as beekeeping. As more Eritrean women take up bee farming, they are not only contributing to household incomes but also strengthening food security, environmental conservation, and community resilience in rural areas. The following article highlights the importance of beekeeping and agriculture and explores how women in agriculture meaningfully contribute to national progress and development.

The significance of bees and agriculture

Bees are part of the biodiversity on which we all depend for survival. They provide high-quality food, such as honey, royal jelly, and pollen, and other valuable products, including beeswax, propolis, and bee venom. Beekeeping also offers an essential source of income for many rural households. According to IPBES, the western honey bee is the most widespread managed pollinator globally, and more than 80 million hives produce about 1.6 million tonnes of honey annually. Notably, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a leading United Nations agency, estimates that about one-third of global food production depends on bees.

More broadly, the agriculture sector remains a cornerstone of global economies, playing a crucial role in ensuring food security, creating jobs, and driving economic growth through both direct and indirect contributions. It supports rural livelihoods, generates export earnings, and fuels other sectors, such as manufacturing, through supply chains. Of note, empirical studies from around the world have shown that growth in agriculture is 2 to 3 times more effective at reducing poverty than an equivalent amount of growth in other sectors, and the effects are most pronounced among the poorest segments of society. What is more, beyond its economic role, agriculture carries deep cultural and social significance.



As in many other developing nations, agriculture is a key pillar of Eritrea's economy, employing a large share of the national workforce and contributing significantly to GDP. It ensures food and nutrition security for millions. However, several challenges – including climate change (of which Eritrea is particularly vulnerable), land degradation, and inadequate infrastructure – continue to limit productivity and prevent the sector from realizing its full potential. Still, agriculture remains central to rural livelihoods and national development efforts.

Women's growing participation promises a more inclusive, sustainable future



Moreover, women play a key role in ensuring food security for their families and communities while also supporting local economies. Again, a large number of empirical analyses and case studies from around the world have shown that when women control agricultural income, they tend to invest in nutrition, healthcare, and education – thus directly enhancing the well-being and development of future generations.

While Eritrean women have long faced barriers to land, credit, training, and agricultural inputs, considerable progress has been made in recent years. Importantly, government institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW), along with a trusted set of international partners, have worked to address these challenges through targeted support and gender-sensitive policies.

For instance, dating back to before Eritrea's independence, the NUEW has played a vital role in empowering female farmers by promoting access to resources, training, and markets. The organization has helped bridge long-standing gender gaps in agriculture by advocating for land rights, financial inclusion, and policy reforms that benefit women. Through its ongoing efforts, NUEW continues to strengthen women's leadership in agribusiness, encourage participation in productive agricultural activities, and contribute to Eritrea's broader goals of food security and sustainable economic development.

Overall, the beekeeping training program in Emni-Haili sub-zone stands as a powerful testament to Eritrea's broader commitment to empowering women and strengthening rural livelihoods through sustainable agriculture. By equipping women with practical knowledge and access to resources, initiatives like these help to diversify income sources, promote environmental stewardship, and build community resilience in the face of economic and climatic challenges.



A common thread throughout the recent discussions in Emni-Haili sub-zone was the vital role of women in agriculture. As in many parts of Africa and the wider developing world, women in Eritrea have historically played a significant role in farming, contributing in multiple and substantial ways. Eritrean women are deeply involved in every stage of production – from planting and harvesting to processing, marketing, and managing household food security. Although precise data is scarce, it is widely recognized that they make up a large share of the country's agricultural labour force and contribute immensely to overall food production.

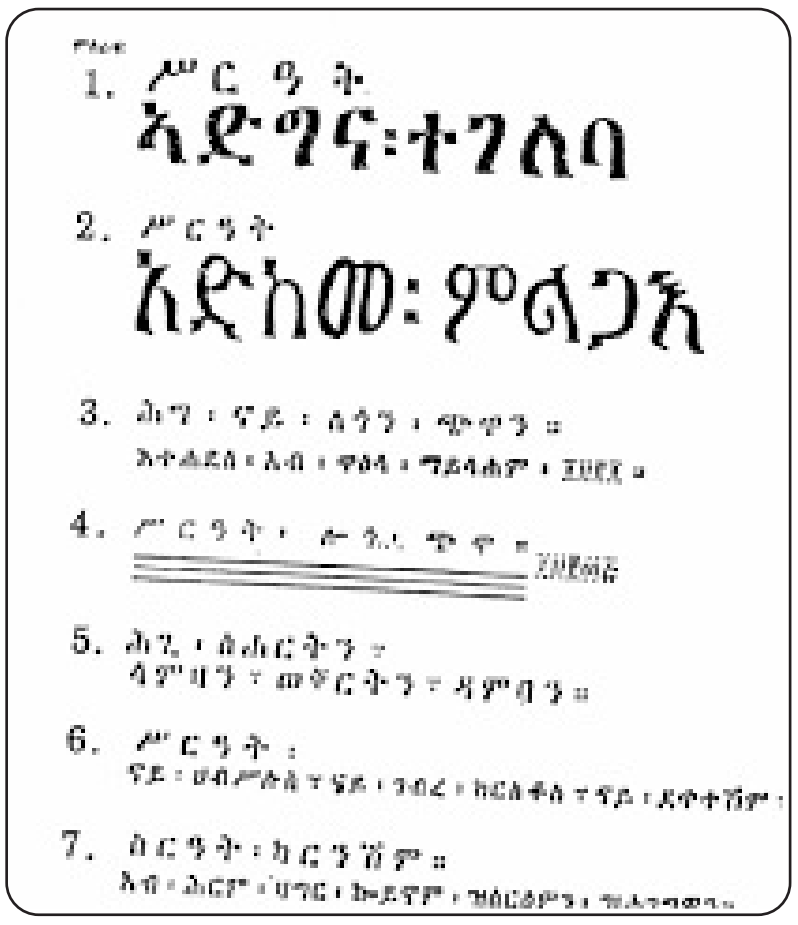
As more Eritrean women engage in modern farming practices such as apiculture, they are not only transforming their own lives but also contributing meaningfully to national development goals. With continued support from the Ministry of Agriculture, the NUEW, and local communities, women's growing participation in agriculture promises a more inclusive, productive, and sustainable future for Eritrea.

OPINION

The Enduring Wisdom of African Justice: Eritrean Customary Laws and the Blueprint for Modern Criminal Law

By Simret Yohannes

In the contemporary discourse on law and globalization, Africa's rich tapestry of customary laws is often overlooked. Yet these deeply rooted legal traditions usually embody the principles that govern modern legal systems worldwide. Eritrea, an African nation with iconic customary laws, offers a compelling case study. Customary law, by definition, comprises the obligatory rules inherent to the indigenous people of a community, highly valued and adhered to by the public it represents.


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ERITREAN CUSTOMARY LAWS

This article argues that long before the arrival of colonizers, Eritrean customary systems were already sophisticated instruments for maintaining peace, security, and order. We focus on four key principles enshrined in various Eritrean customary laws that reflect the fundamental tenets of modern criminal law and demonstrate a profound respect for human dignity and due process.

Presumption of Innocence

The presumption of innocence is the cornerstone of any modern criminal justice institution, dictating that an accused person is innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. This is a universally accepted legal and international right (e.g., Article 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

Eritrean customary laws clearly anticipate this principle. For example, the Adkeme Mlgae Customary Law places the burden of proof squarely on the accuser, not the accused. Judges refuse to pronounce judgment until the accuser provides evidence and testimony that proves the crime was committed beyond a reasonable doubt, effectively upholding the pillar that the accused is innocent until proven guilty.

Similarly, the Adgena Tegelba Customary Law presumes the accused to be innocent until guilt is established by a due investigation from the judge and credible human testimonies, reflecting a conscious societal demand for a high standard of proof before conviction.

Public Participation

Public participation ensures that justice is not only done but is seen to be done, fostering awareness and public confidence in the legal system—a modern goal often achieved through juries or public hearings.

In traditional Eritrean society, this principle was integral to the judicial process:

• The Bayto System: Although no specific rule explicitly mandated "public participation," it was the notorious fact of Eritrean legal life. Societies settled their matters in front of the Bayto (corresponding to a modern parliament) under a sycamore tree. This was the central gathering place where villagers discussed law, order, and justice, confirming that any issue was settled in the open presence of the public.

• Customary Law Commands: The customary laws of Adgena Tegelba, Adkeme Mlgae, and Logo Chwa all command that any litigation—whether for arbitration or judgment—must be given in the presence of the Bayto or Chiqa Adi (local leader). This indirectly but effectively institutionalized public participation, ensuring that individual rights were protected and justice was administered openly and accountably.

The Right to Have a Counsel

The right to counsel is a crucial protection for the accused, who are often laymen incapable of understanding complex charges or procedures. Modern legal systems provide attorneys to ensure an effective defense.

This right is explicitly recognized across several Eritrean customary codes: The Adkeme Mlgae customary law clearly states that any accused has the right to be represented by an attorney of his choice, emphasizing the importance of rightful defense. Moreover, the Adkeme Mlgae laws provide that any accused person has a maximum of 10 days to appoint an attorney of his choice. The Adgena Tegelba customary law declares that any accused person has the right to a defense through an attorney. Not far from the Adgena Tegelba and Adkeme Mlgae, the Logo Chwa customary law also reflects the importance of legal representation for accused individuals, defining the ethical obligation of attorneys during trial proceedings. The right to counsel is also enshrined in Sahel customary law, which states that individuals who are incapable of representing themselves have the right to appoint an attorney. These laws were instruments that contemplated moral duty and upheld one's right to defend in a just customary system.

The Principle of Speedy Trial

The principle of speedy trial guarantees protection against unreasonable delays in criminal proceedings, thereby safeguarding the accused against the arbitrary deprivation of liberty and fostering public confidence in the justice system.

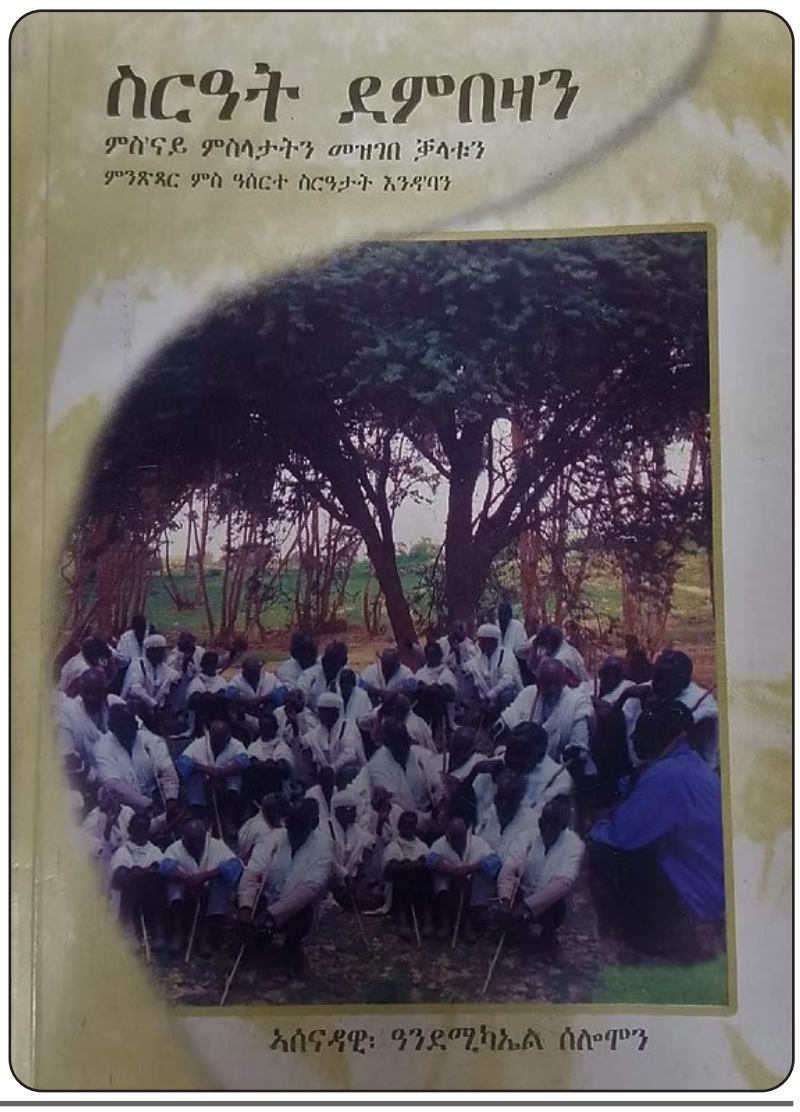
Eritrean customary systems enforced strict deadlines to ensure efficiency:

Shewate Anseba Customary Law: This law emphasizes that any issue shall be settled within a time span of one month, dictating that parties should bring their case to the judge within thirty days maximum. Failure by one party to litigate within the month allows the proceedings to continue in their absence, highlighting the importance of timely justice.

Dembezan Customary Laws: This code reinforces the principle in the execution of judgments, dictating that blood money (compensation) should be paid as quickly as possible to prevent severe retaliatory consequences from the deceased's family members.

The existence of principles such as the presumption of innocence, public participation, the right to counsel, and the speedy-trial guarantee in Eritrean customary law—some of which predate the 15th Century—is truly surprising. These laws are a testament to a society that upheld human dignity and believed that justice is attained through the due process of law, a principle that the world today champions.

Though some of these customary rules may require extensive research and explanation, their significance as a source of rich, wide-ranging law cannot be overstated. With extensive research and discussion, Eritrean customary laws could serve as the indispensable foundation of Eritrean jurisprudence and a distinct Eritrean school of legal thought that perfectly fits the nation's unique societal structure.



Development

Mussie Efriem

Building Maternity Waiting Homes: A Strategy for Enhancing Maternal and Neonatal Wellbeing

Maternity Waiting Homes (MWHs), residential places near a medical facility providing emergency obstetric care, are crucial for improving maternal and neonatal health, especially for people in disadvantaged or remote areas. These homes allow pregnant women, particularly those who live far from health facilities or are identified as high-risk, to live close to where they can get medical care until they give birth. This strategy addresses the "three delays" model of maternal mortality: delaying the decision to seek care, delaying reaching a health facility, and delaying receiving quality care. By bridging the geographical gap, MWHs ensure timely access to a skilled birth attendant, which is vital for preventing complications like obstetrical hemorrhage or obstructed labor, thereby significantly reducing maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity.

The Government of Eritrea has consistently demonstrated a tireless commitment to ensuring comprehensive and equitable access to healthcare across the country, prioritizing public health as a cornerstone of national development. This commitment is built upon the core philosophy of providing Primary Health Care (PHC), focusing on preventive services and building health facilities that are now accessible to 80% of the population within a 10km radius. Within this national framework, maternal and child health has been a key area of focus due to its critical role in societal well-being. Strategic investments in antenatal care, expansion of the network of health facilities, and the rise in the number of skilled birth attendants have all contributed to Eritrea's remarkable success in significantly reducing maternal mortality. However, a significant challenge remains in providing timely access to facility-based care for women living in remote or hard-to-reach areas, a gap that the introduction of MWHs has specifically been designed to address.

MWHs were initially introduced into Eritrea's national health system in 2007 to improve access to safe delivery for women living in remote, hard-to-reach areas. The establishment of MWHs aligns with the broader goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and directly contributes to community well-being by promoting safe motherhood and advancing equity. MWHs provide not only safe physical spaces but also health education on nutrition and breastfeeding, empowering



women and their families. This integration of social support and health services strengthens the entire maternal health continuum, fosters community involvement, and increases the use of facility-based deliveries, leading to better overall community health outcomes. This initial targeted approach was vital for bridging the significant geographical gaps that prevented many high-risk pregnant women living in remote locations from reaching health facilities in time for childbirth. In the years since, the role and position of MWHs have steadily expanded beyond remote accommodation. They now represent an integral link within the country's field of care for maternal and newborn health. By providing a safe, monitored transition point near skilled medical services, MWHs ensure that birth preparedness, delivery at health facilities, and immediate postnatal care are seamlessly connected, transforming them from isolated projects into core components of Eritrea's strategy to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality nationwide.

The funding for MWHs typically involves a collaborative approach combining government resources, international support such as that of the World Health Organization, and significant community contributions. To ensure long-term sustainability and local ownership, the government typically integrates the operational costs of MWHs, including staffing and basic utilities, into the Ministry of Health's budget. The community plays a pivotal role by providing labor, local construction materials, and food. This blend of public funding and localized, free support enables MWHs to offer their services at no direct cost to pregnant women, providing highly accessible and equitable maternal health care in remote areas.

In the remote areas of Eritrea, local health personnel ensure pregnant women get vital medications and treatment to manage conditions, address nutritional deficiencies, and prepare for a healthy delivery. However, the significance of MWHs extends well beyond the pregnancy phase and the moment of birth. By design, MWHs offer greater opportunities for new mothers to rest and recover during the crucial postpartum period, which is often challenging in home environments, especially those lacking sanitation or dedicated support. This recovery time is essential for both the mother's physical healing after labor and her mental adjustment to motherhood.

MWHs are also instrumental in ensuring critical follow-up care for both the mother and the newborn. Instead of being immediately discharged to return to a remote village, the mother and baby can remain at the MWH for a short time. This allows health staff to conduct postnatal check-ups, monitor for signs of postpartum complications, and check the newborn's health, weight, and feeding success. This period is also a good opportunity to provide intensive education on breastfeeding, newborn care, and family planning, empowering mothers with the knowledge necessary for the long-term health and well-being of their families. This extended stay at the MWHs bridges the gap between facility-based delivery and safe return home, significantly reducing newborn mortality that often occurs in the first week of life.

Eritrea has made remarkable progress in integrating MWHs into its national health strategy since their introduction in 2007, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. This has been a key factor in the country's significant reduction in maternal mortality.

The operation of MWHs has been a significant factor in increasing skilled attendance at birth and boosting health facility delivery rates among women living in remote and hard-to-reach rural areas. The rate of skilled birth attendance nationwide nearly doubled, rising dramatically from 26.7% in 2009 to 51.6% in 2019. And by increasing access to skilled birth attendance, the MWHs have successfully demonstrated their effectiveness as a cost-effective intervention for saving the lives of mothers and newborns. The improved access to professional care has led to a significant reduction in maternal mortality, which fell from 804 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2005 to 480 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2017.

LOCAL NEWS

RESOLVE TO ENHANCE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AND CONTRIBUTION



Nationals in Switzerland, the US, and the Republic of South Africa conducted discussions aimed at enhancing organizational capacity and contribution to national affairs.

At the meeting held on 9 November in Geneva, Switzerland, attended by the heads of all national organizations, participants reviewed their annual activities and discussed future programs. The meeting, which coincided with the inauguration of "Nakfa Hall," was attended by about 150 heads of various national organizations.

Mr. Habtom Zeray, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy in Switzerland and Eritrea's Permanent Representative to the Human Rights Council and other international institutions, gave a briefing on efforts to develop the Embassy's capacity and expand service provision, highlighting the results achieved so far.

Mr. Tewolde Yohannes, head of Public and Community Affairs, presented a report focusing on activities implemented in 2025, including strengths and challenges encountered. He also outlined programs for 2026.

Similarly, Mr. Berhane Gebrehiwet, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy in the US, and Ms. Hadinet Keleta, head of Public and Community Affairs, conducted a meeting with nationals in Dallas focusing on organizational and national issues, as well as the 2026 Eritrean Festival.

At the meeting, nationals conducted extensive discussions on the significance of organization, strengthening and expanding national associations, and the objective situation in the homeland.

Likewise, Eritrea's Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa and Southern African countries, Mr. Saleh Omar, conducted a seminar for nationals in Johannesburg focusing on the objective situation in the homeland as well as regional developments.



ADS

Zara Mining Share Company

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position:	**Process Plant Maintenance Rigger**
Number required	**02**
Location:	**Koka Gold Mine (Site)**
Reporting to:	**Process Plant Maintenance Superintendent/Manager**
Primary Responsibility & Scope of work	The Rigger is responsible for the safe and efficient setup, movement, and dismantling of heavy equipment and materials within a mining site. This role involves working closely with crane operators, maintenance teams, and safety personnel to ensure all lifting and rigging operations comply with safety standards and operational requirements.

Duties / Functions

Rigging Setup & Preparation:

- Assemble and install rigging gear such as cables, ropes, pulleys, winches, and chains.
- Select appropriate rigging equipment based on load weight, dimensions, and environmental conditions.
- Inspect and prepare loads for lifting, ensuring proper balance and secure fastening.

Operational Duties:

- Direct crane and equipment operators during lifting operations using hand signals or communication devices.
- Align, level, and position heavy machinery and structural components.
- Dismantle rigging equipment post-operation and ensure proper storage and maintenance.

Safety & Compliance:

- Conduct pre-use inspections of rigging gear and lifting equipment.
- Adhere to site-specific and national safety regulations (e.g., OSHA, MSHA).
- Identify and mitigate potential hazards during rigging operations.
- Wear and enforce the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Team Coordination:

- Collaborate with engineers, supervisors, and other trades to plan and execute lifting tasks.
- Maintain clear communication with team members to ensure safe and efficient operations

Emergency Procedures:

- Immediately stop operations if unsafe conditions arise or equipment failure occurs.
- Alert supervisors and safety personnel in case of accidents, near misses, or equipment malfunctions.
- Follow site-specific emergency response protocols, including evacuation procedures and first aid.
- Participate in regular emergency drills and safety briefings.
- Maintain knowledge of emergency contact numbers, muster points, and communication systems.

- Monitoring equipment condition and escalating issues to prevent further deterioration

- Environmental performance and good housekeeping.

- To take reasonable care for the health and safety of himself /herself and that of other persons who may be affected by his/her acts or omissions

- To report to immediate manager any hazard which may be discovered at, or in the vicinity of the place of work.
- Perform Fault Analysis / Fault Finding / Root Cause Analysis to Eliminate Re-Occurrences of Repetitive Faults and improve Process Efficiency and Equipment as required.

- Following instructions and mentorship from senior fitters and supervision

- Following Zara mine training program to upgrade knowledge and skills

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	• Grade 8 Numeracy & literacy • Training Certificate in Rigging. • Training Certificate in Mechanical Engineering would be an added advantage. • 4TH Grade driving licence an added advantage.
Working Experience – Nature & Length	• A minimum of 3 years in engineering or mining environment is desirable. • Demonstrable ability to organize and execute • Proficient in using rigging tools and equipment (slings, shackles, hoists, etc.). • Ability to read and interpret load charts, lifting plans, and technical drawings. • Ability to read and interpret technical manuals, schematics, and diagrams. • Knowledge of safety regulations and procedures related to t Willingness to work in shifts and under different weather conditions. • Physical stamina and strength to lift heavy equipment and work in confined spaces. • he use of tools.
Leadership Experience – Nature & length of time	• Liaise with internal and external stakeholders in a professional and courteous manner and provide advice where required. • Familiarity with best practices in Workplace Health and Safety and Environmental procedures and legislation policies. • Excellent communication skills to report any issues or potential problems to the supervisor.

Continued on page 7

ADS

Continued from page 6 **Other skills and abilities**	• Physically fit and healthy. • Strong communication and interpersonal skills. • Team player • Execute and deliver all work safely and to a high professional standard, • Must be able to work and perform under pressure. • Good verbal and written communication skills in English • Flexibility to work outside of normal business hours if required. • Must be able to work under minimum supervision. • Perform any other duties as requested by your supervisor.
Work Conditions:	• Outdoor work in varying weather conditions. • Exposure to dust, noise, and heavy machinery. • May require shift work, overtime, and weekend availability during shutdowns or critical lifts.
Other information	• To be able to pass a full Doctor's Physical examination. • To be able to work on ZMSC's rosters.

Age	35 – 50 years
Salary	Company scale
Room Accommodation	Free accommodation
Other's requirement	Additional Requirement for nationals: - Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligations and provide evidence of a release paper from the Ministry of Defence. Present Clearance paper from the current/last employer. Only short-listed applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview. Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
Please mail your applications to the ZARA MINING SHARE CO P. O. Box 2393. Asmara, Eritrea	
Note to Eritrean applicants: - Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea. and Eritrea. Mineral Resources Management P. O. Box 272	
Deadline for application: Seven days from the day of announcement.	

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that "SNIT CLEARNING AND FORWARDING PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY" has been formed among the following members.

A. Shareholders

S/N	FULL NAME				NATIONALITY	ADDRESS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE OF SHARES
1	Mr.	Yohanes	Tekle	kiflemaryam	Eritrean	Asmara	250	250,000
2	Ms.	Luchiya	tesfaezgi	Bayray	Eritrean	Asmara	250	250,000
			Total				500	500,000

B. The head office of the company shall be in Massawa, branch offices may be opened within and outside Eritrea wherever necessary.

C. The company has a share capital of Nakfa 500,000.00 (Five hundred thousand) divided into 500 (Five hundred) registered shares of par value of Nakfa 1,000.00 (One thousand) each. All shares are subscribed and fully paid up by the members in cash.

D. The business purposes of the Company shall be:

- To engage in the business of clearing and forwarding.
- To engage in the business of stationery sales, photocopy and desktop publishing services.
- To engage in the services of storage facility, unpacking and repacking, goods transport services.
- To engage in the business of any tourism related activities like travel agency, ticketing and tour services, café, bar and restaurant.
- To engage in the business of general trade retail and whole sale, import/export, commission agent or representation of manufacturer and traders, clearing and forwarding brokerage, etc.

E. Mr. Yohanes Tekle Kiflemaryam is appointed to be the manager for indefinite period of time.

F. The company shall exist continually without prejudice to the powers of the members to decide otherwise.

SNIT CLEARING AND FORWARDING P.L.CO

Q and A

Tailoring Hope: How Selemet Mohammed Turned Personal Tragedy into Business Triumph

By Milka Teklom

"Life doesn't always give you what you want, but it gives you what you need to grow. My pain became my strength!" —Selemet Mohammed

In a world where tragedy often defines people, Selemet Mohammed chose a different path. She transformed heartbreak into hope, forging a lasting legacy from the ruins of her past. Her journey—from a young trainee mechanic to a self-made business owner, caregiver, and mentor—stands as a shining example of resilience. Her story is one of quiet heroism, proving that strength grows from loss, and that determination can be the only capital needed to rebuild futures.



Please introduce yourself to our readers.

I was born and raised in a village called Melebso. After finishing my schooling, I went to Sawa in 2010. Since I didn't score high enough on the school-leaving exam, I was assigned to work in a government-owned garage in Keren to train as a mechanic.

That path was abruptly cut short by a tragedy.

Yes. While I was taking the mechanic course, the news from home was terrible. My mom, who had been sick for months, passed away. I wasn't even there when she passed. The news struck like lightning. I dropped everything and rushed home, only to find my world changed forever. We are eight siblings—five girls and three boys. On the drive home, all I could think about was the wellbeing of my younger siblings, especially since my two older brothers were deployed in different regions for their service, oblivious to the immense responsibility left vacant by my mother's passing.

You essentially became a mother overnight. How did that transition feel?

The transition was brutal. I went from studying car parts to cooking meals, managing school schedules, and comforting my siblings, each grappling with the loss in their own way. I had no time to mourn; survival became my priority.

Our father died back in 1999, leaving us a two-room house and barely any food. My mother, however, was an incredible force. She was a gifted tailor, known for her fine stitching, and had converted one of the rooms into her shop. We had close relatives, especially my maternal aunts, who were on our side, but they couldn't help us financially.

How did you manage to support the family initially and then turn that small house into a thriving business?

I took on any job I could find. I once bought three hens and started selling the eggs door-to-door, or I would go to the nearest town, Keren, to sell larger quantities to shop and restaurant owners. Every coin I earned went toward food, school fees, and household needs. My younger sisters also pitched in with cleaning and cooking.

In the midst of this hardship, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in my region noticed our struggle and provided some relief. This was an enormous help. I used that money, combined with the savings from the egg business, to buy a sewing machine.



I knew we needed something more sustainable than selling eggs. I also had a vital support system: my older brother, a military officer, was reassigned close to our home. He had inherited our mother's gift for tailoring and, though his job kept him away, he helped with finances and emotional strength.

And that led to the flourishing of the tailor shop?

Yes. From our successful egg-selling business (where our hens grew in number tremendously), we were able to support our tailor shop. Slowly, the empty room with only a sewing machine was transformed into a complete shop with fabric rolls, thread spools, and design sketches. Our reputation grew, and soon, women from neighboring villages were coming to us for their most important occasions.

After achieving success, what was your focus?

As the business thrived, I focused entirely on my siblings' futures. One by one, my sisters finished school and got married. My brother and I made sure each of them had the wedding they deserved. "It was expensive," I admit, "But it was worth it. I wanted them to have happy beginnings."



My sisters often assure me that I played the role of both mother and sister. My older brother proudly tells people that our family's success rests on my shoulders. But for me, "I just did what I had to do."

You even ventured into a new business?

Yes, we added a new business to the picture. We invested the money from the tailor shop into opening a wood and metal shop. It seems completely different from tailoring, but it shares that common artistic factor of designing with fabric and wood. The business is just in its initial stage, but like our other ventures, I am sure it will be successful.

After many years of putting your family first, how did you meet your husband?

Love came into my life unexpectedly. I met my husband through a mutual friend—a health worker with a big heart. Like me, he had faced hardship early in life. He, too, had lost his parents young and had worked tirelessly to support himself. Our shared experiences created a deep connection. "He knew what it meant to sacrifice," I explained. "That's why I trust him."

Our wedding in 2020 was simple but heartfelt. We now have two children and a humble but happy home. Even after marriage, I continue to run my businesses. My husband encourages my every ambition, often helping me release my dreams into reality. "He's my partner in every way; we both know the meaning of hard work."

What final message do you have for people who are struggling today?

Life doesn't always give you what you want, but it gives you what you need to grow. Your pain should become your strength!

Thank you for your time, Selemet.